

Tyler Junior College News

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9,902 voters roll back 4¢ tax increase

By Rachael Riley
Page Editor

TJC tax district voters voted to roll back TJC's proposed tax increase of four cents. Of the votes cast, 9,902 favored the rollback and 1,535 supported the higher tax rate, as reported in the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

TJC Trustees approved the tax rate Aug. 26, 2004, but

were presented with a rollback petition four months later.

School districts in the TJC tax district are: Winona, Chapel Hill, Van and Grand Saline independent school districts and Rice, Flint, Pine Springs, Swan and Dixie schools in the Tyler I.S.D.

Dr. Don Haygood and his son, Dr. Ken Haygood, headed the rollback movement.

Their website, www.TJctax.com, provided information encouraging voters to oppose the tax increase.

"The tax increase would have been set aside for high capital projects which included: a classroom building, building renovations, a parking garage, a new student life center and Potter Hall renovation or re-

placement," according to the TJC website.

TJC Board President Peggy Smith said, "some voters may have misunderstood some of the issues. Some people who would have supported the tax increase just didn't vote."

"Plans for rethinking projects intended to be funded by the tax issue is something we will

have to think hard about," Smith said.

"We believed this was a reasonable plan, but taxpayers didn't want to go through with it."

The current tax rate is .1223 per \$100 and would have been raised to .1623 per \$100. This means tax on a \$100,000 home would have cost \$162.30.

Former Iraqi POW to Feb. 24 about capture

By Brooke Langston
Staff Writer

Former POW Shoshana Johnson, will talk about her experiences in Operation Iraqi Freedom at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 24

in Apache Rooms 1-4 at Rogers Student Center.

Students and faculty can pick up free "The Power of One" tickets in the Student Activities Office, 235 Rogers Student Center.

Johnson joined the U.S. Army in 1998 and completed the basic training course and ad-

vanced individual training. While on her second military assignment in February, 2003, she was deployed to Iraq working as a food service specialist with the 507th Maintenance Company.

Johnson was wounded March 23

that year in a convoy ambushed in an-Nasiriyah. A bullet wound to her ankles injured both legs. She and five others were captured as prisoners of war.

The U.S. Marines successfully rescued Johnson and six former POWs April 13 in Samarra, Iraq.

Johnson and the other POWs made international headlines as heroes.

She is the second Student Enrichment Series speaker this semester.

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Police chief gives tips on safety

By Coshandra Dillard
Staff Writer

The abduction and murder of TJC freshman Megan Holden leaves many students worried about how to protect themselves.

Campus Safety Director Randy Melton urges students to try to prevent dangerous situations from occurring, both on and off campus. He explained to journalism students the kind of help available from

the campus safety department.

Melton assures that TJC is a "very safe campus." Other than an occasional book theft, which Melton calls a "crime of opportunity," he said campus crime is low because of vigorous crime prevention.

However, he stresses that no matter how safe the environment may be, all students must be

aware of their surroundings. Students who work or attend classes at night should especially take precautions.

Melton recommends students park in a well-lit area and have their keys in hand before they approach their car.

He also stresses walking in a "buddy" system or calling Campus Safety for an escort. Cell phones are

good to have for emergencies, but Melton warned students to be alert while talking because phones can become distracting.

Campus Safety includes five officers, six security guards and three cadets. The officers follow and enforce all federal, state and local laws and have authority to issue

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CAMPUS FOCUS

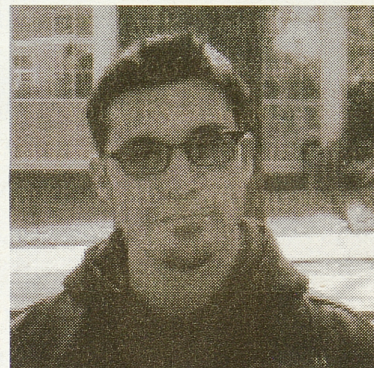
What do you think of Valentine's Day?



Olen Frazier, 24, nursing major, "Commercialized monopoly of illusionary emotion."



Maureen Hammond, 19, nursing major, "It's pretty dumb."



Wesley Norton, 27, general studies and music major, "Very mixed feelings about Valentine's Day as I do with any subjected holiday."



Jordon Schmidt, 20, criminal justice major, "Commercialized non-holiday which should be a holiday, unpleasant day for singles."

Singles learn to cope with Valentine's Day

By Brooke Langston
Staff Writer

♥ Try to forget the chocolates, hearts and flowers this year. Why not challenge yourself to have fun on this day dedicated to love? Plenty of different, unique ways can take your mind off the fact that love does not fill the air around you.

♥ Get a group of single friends together and have a party for the loveless with no dates allowed. The love of friends makes everyone feel better.

♥ Dedicate this day to yourself. Spend time doing what you love to do. Whether living like a queen with a manicure or pedicure or like a king playing

video games, find an activity to pamper yourself. Enjoy a day of personal indulgence.

♥ Spend time with your family. Take your little brother or sister to a movie. Cartoons and kid films provide great escape.

♥ For those who choose to treat the day as a joke, how about refusing anything to do with pink or red, colors that carry special meaning on this day of romance? What better way to express your emotion towards this bitter day than wearing black and becoming anti-Valentines?

♥ Better yet, try to not mention the word

"love" all day. Or don't speak to a person of the opposite sex all day long?

♥ These fun ideas can keep your life going on the day when singles are singled out. Don't let commercialized cards, candy and clothes depress you on one random February day. Just thinking of those who are wasting their time and money buying trinkets and treasures can bring a smile to your face.

♥ What most people don't know is that St. Valentine was murdered on the national day of romance in Rome. By comparison, your day is not bad at all!

'The Wedding Date' perfect for couples

By Miranda Nelson
Page Editor

Every single adult knows the pressure they face from friends and family to find "someone special." No one knows this better than Kat Ellis (Debra Messing).

Anxiety-ridden because her younger sister gets married and her ex-fiance is best man, Kat becomes desperate for a date. She hires Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney), an escort to pose as her boyfriend.

"The Wedding Date," a hilarious chick flick, strays from conventional love stories with subtle hints of the relationship be-

tween Kat and Nick. Viewers must pay attention to every word, look and hidden meaning to recognize the love growing between the two main characters. "Wedding Date" brings more reality to a love story in its implied appearance of a budding relationship.

Debra Messing of "Will & Grace" and "Along Came Polly" is excellent showing the quirky, anxious side of all single women whose younger sister gets married. Messing portrays Kat much like her character Grace on "Will & Grace," a woman who has been

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Pops Concert offers entertainment for patrons

By Rachael Riley
Page Editor

The TJC Harmony and Understanding and the Jazz Band teamed up for the annual Pops Concert Feb. 5-6. Their theme was "From Beatles to Broadway."

The first act showcased popular songs: "Imagine," "Love Is All You Need," "She Loves You," "Yellow Submarine" and other Beatles' favorites sung by Harmony and Understanding.

The audience appeared amused by the

group's costumes. Women wore colorful patterned short dresses and guys wore wigs, mustaches and costumes to resemble Beatles' legend John Lennon.

The Jazz Band captivated the audience by playing "Come Together," "Here, There and Everywhere" and "Lady Madonna." The night's highlight was Hayden McMullen's guitar solo which he

played behind his head.

The second act included songs from popular Broadway shows: "42nd Street," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Cabaret," "Chicago," "Guys and Dolls," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," "The Sound of Music" and "The Wiz."

Dr. Cheryl Rogers directed Harmony & Understanding and Candy Crocker Jordan choreographed the show.

Heather Mensch directed the Jazz Band.

Members of Har-

mony & Understanding include: sopranos Jennifer Dubbs, Kristi Hearnberger, Jennifer Henson, Katie Jones and Ashley Taylor; altos: Bonnie Hancock, Jamie Johnston and Brittany Roberts; tenors: Luke Casey, James Kittley and Phillip Terrell and basses: Christopher Mapp, Scott Mettler, Anthony Scirto and Trey Westerburg.

Jazz Band members include: saxophones Katie Dugan, Jordan

Eckeberger, Marc Nicholson, Ramon Parker and Derek Tucker; trumpets: Addison D'Anna, Dustin Endsley, Jon-athan Gandy, Jared Ham and Phillip Terrell and trombones: Josh Craddock, Tom Mensch, Philip Morrow and Josh Wood.

Tyler Ellison played drums, Hayden McMullen, guitar. Jeff Turman, bass guitar and Allyn Welker, piano.

Feb./March DVD/Video Releases

Feb. 15

"The Motorcycle Diaries"
"Saw"
"Raise Your Voice"
"Taxi"

Feb. 22

"I Heart Huckabees"
"Mail Order Bride"

March 1

"The Spongebob Squarepants Movie"
"Exorcist: The Beginning"
"Flight of the Phoenix"

March 8

"Ladder 49"
"Woman Thou Art Loosed"
"Stage Beauty"
"Lightening in a Bottle"

'The Wedding Date' continued

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Grace," a woman who has been dumped hard and finds being single difficult.

Dermot Mulroney ("My Best Friend's Wedding," "Copycat") shows his suave personality as the just-business escort. He portrays a man who will give a woman whatever she needs to feel good about herself. His facial expressions bring laughter or heartbreak without his uttering a word. He imitates Richard Geere in "American Gigolo," a man in control who makes women swoon at the sound of his voice.

Messing and Mulroney connect beautifully, the sparks be-

tween them moving the dynamics to a new level. Viewers get sucked into the heart of their relationship as it blossoms to something more than just employer/employee.

"The Wedding Date," a must-see for all romantics, brings reality to falling in love and a fresh outlook to the whole love story genre. It defies conventionality, grabs your heart and leaves you with a warm, loving feeling.



Witty & romantic.
Great date movie.

'The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail' opens TJC's theater season

By Rachael Riley
Page Editor

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail", presented by TJC theater students last month, portrayed the life of writer Henry David Thoreau.

During the 1846 war with Mexico, the transcendentalist writer was imprisoned for refusing to pay taxes which would support the war. During his single night in jail he reflects on the events of his past: time spent as a school teacher, his relationship with his brother who died young and time working with mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Director Dr. David Crawford cast and di-

rected a detailed piece of theatrical art. The cast captured their audience.

Cody Crawford ideally played Thoreau with the same sincerity and spirited energy the original himself might have possessed.

As Henry's brother John, Zac Nichols convincing performance provided Henry mature guidance with a whimsical brotherly style.

Other notable performances were Aaron Gage as Thoreau's illiterate cellmate and Jared Davis, as sheriff Sam Staples who imprisoned Thoreau. Both provided comic relief to this otherwise

serious play.

Supporting cast included Taylor Flowers as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Christy Cole as Lydian Emerson, Meredith Truman as Thoreau's mother, Scott Robertson as the antagonist Deacon Ball, Lauri Wynne as Ellen, Stacy Wall as Edward and Vincent Johnson as Williams.

Jacob Davis, Erik Faulds, Philip Kemp, Jordon Martin, Lacy Prince and Lindsey Ressmann portrayed the townspeople.

Muslims celebrate Eid al-Dohr festival

By Hassan Dean
Staff Writer

Muslims around the world came together Jan. 20 to celebrate Eid al-Dohr. Eid al-Dohr or the Feast of Sacrifice follows the day of the Hajj, which is the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. The Islamic calendar, 10 days shorter than the Christian calendar, fluctuates the date of Eid al-Dohr.

Graduate master builder and president of Pyramid Homes Anwar Khalifa, 43, is the spokesperson for the East Texas Islamic Society. Born in Egypt but a Texas resident for 36 years, Khalifa graduated from Texas A&M University and earned a master's degree from the Univer-

sity of South Carolina.

"Eid is a time for kids to have lots of fun," Khalifa said. Muslim children don't need to look to other holidays to have fun with their families, he said. Khalifa tries to do the best for the children, so they can grow up as proud Muslims.

"The media shows what the public wants to see," Khalifa said, referring to how Islam is often portrayed in the media.

"We need to get out there and meet with people to show them who we really are. We are in the spotlight, and it is every Muslim's duty to know and show that Islam is a religion

of peace," Khalifa said.

Some Muslims may hesitate expressing their religion openly, from fear of persecution. Khalifa said some people learn through one-on-one interaction, while other may learn better through reading. "Find out what they need, be polite and give them what they want. We have nothing to hide" he said.

Khalifa received the award for Non-Violent Social Change at the recent Martin Luther King Jr. Day program. Khalifa brought the Muslim and Jewish communities together through Habitat for Humanity, to build a

house for a Christian family.

Abdul Rahman Kafray, 24, an American Pakistani, perceives Eid as a time for the Muslim community to come together and celebrate a festival provided by God. "It is a time to be happy and come together," he said.

Kafray, born in Tyler, has always lived here. He graduated from Texas A&M in May, 2003, with an engineering degree and works for Brannon Corporation of Tyler, a civil engineering company. He is president of the Mosque board of directors.

Kafray thinks Islam's reputation in the

media is not impressive.

"The Muslims seen in the news don't follow true Islam," Kafray said. Fanatics and terrorists only take a minute part of Islam, and exaggerate it.

"To learn about the true Islam, you need to know someone on a personal basis," Kafray said.

Non-Muslims are welcome to the services at the Mosque on Fridays, Kafray said. "Contact a Muslim whom you can trust, and get along with."

The only requirements would be to show respect, and to dress conservatively, and for women to cover their heads.

First Presbyterian Church Tyler, TX

Is looking for a student to lead music on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights for the middle school and high school groups. Prefer someone who plays the guitar, has a working knowledge of Powerpoint, and copyright laws.

Call Brent at
903-597-6317 Ext. 106

Baptist Student Ministries offers students activities

By Anthony Croff
Staff Writer

The TJC Baptist Student Ministries building provides a place for all students to gather regardless of religious background or beliefs.

The BSM building is usually open to students weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Their most notable function is their free Wednesday lunch.

BSM is cooperatively funded by the Smith County Baptist Association, and local churches provide the free lunch each week.

BSM director Mark Jones said since he came to the BSM in

1996, attendance has nearly doubled. About 250 to 300 students eat free lunches each Wednesday.

Another activity the BSM conducts is "Grounds for Growth," a coffee shop Bible study held 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Jones said BSM strives to "be a blessing to the campus."

"We earn the opportunity to share what we're about," Jones said. Plans will probably involve some big campus event.

Jones said students can find ways to give of themselves through

the BSM and feel part of a greater purpose.

"We want our group to be marked by a loving acceptance," Jones said.

BSM puts together various community outreach teams and also lends support to campus organizations.

Jones hopes that students who get involved with the BSM will ultimately join a church.

This story is one in a series of stories on TJC's religious organizations.

TJC mourns 2 students' deaths

Megan LeAnn Holden

By Amy Bumgarner
Staff Writer

TJC freshman Megan LeAnn Holden, 19, of Henderson, died Jan. 20 in Martin County in West Texas.

Born Sept. 24, 1985 in Tyler, Holden graduated from Henderson High School and had just enrolled at TJC.

According to news accounts, Holden was abducted shortly before midnight from the Wal-Mart parking lot Jan. 19 after finishing her work shift.

Johnny Lee Williams Jr. of Tyler is being held in the Smith County Jail, charged with her abduction and murder.

Holden is survived by her father and step-mother, Vince and

Juleann Holden of Lindale, her mother, Sheri Dunlap of Henderson, sisters, Crisa Kirkpatrick of Chandler and Kristi Pritts of Lindale, and grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A memorial fund was created in Holden's name at the TJC Foundation to help defray funeral expenses. In only five days, faculty, staff and students donated \$625, the TJC Student Senate raised \$150 and has agreed to contribute another \$350 to the fund.

To donate to the Megan Holden Memorial Fund, contact Student Activities Director Scott Nalley at 903-510-2613.

Judson Daniel "JD" Davis

By Amy Bumgarner
Staff Writer

TJC graduate Judson Daniel Davis, 23, of Tyler, died Jan. 19 while traveling to Washington, D.C., to participate in the presidential inaugural parade with the University of Texas Longhorn Band.

Davis, or JD, as friends and family knew him, was born Sept. 17, 1981 in Tyler, and lived here most of his life until he moved to Austin. At the University of Texas, he

earned a bachelors degree in kinesiology.

He is survived by his parents, Warren and Linda Davis of Tyler, brother Benjamin Joseph Davis and grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Davis graduated from Whitehouse High School in 2000, and earned an associate degree in business at TJC.

Friends, colleagues and fellow UT students all over the nation sent tributes to him and condolences to his

family. They told their own stories of how he affected their lives. He was remembered as a "magnificent person," "full of energy and life."

Memorials for Davis can be made to the American Cancer Society, 1301 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler, 75701, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, P.O. Box 4261, Pittsfield, MA, 01202, or Lake Hills Church 4100 Westbank Dr., Austin, 78746.

Your ad could be here.
Call TJC News, 903-510-2335
to place an ad.

Campus Safety

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arrest warrants. All officers are trained to handle emergencies and provide other services for students. These include escorts on campus, unlocking cars and boosting car batteries.

Melton and his staff are eager to keep TJC student and employees safe, he said. If needed, Campus Safety personnel will speak to student groups about any concerns and give information. "The best prevention is knowledge," Melton said.

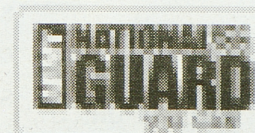
To learn more about self-defense, crime statistics and services, go to tjc.edu and click on campus safety or read the TJC Student Handbook. For any questions, contact campus officers at 903-510-2222. This number is displayed in all classrooms on Crisis Management flip charts.

Safety booklets and brochures can be picked up at the Campus Safety Department on Baxter Avenue across from Hudnall Hall.



Nothing moves you like the chance to help those around you—those who need you the most. In the Army National Guard, you serve right in your community. Most Guard members serve one weekend a month and two weeks a year. You get career training, money for college and leadership skills. Serve on the team that serves us all. In the Army National Guard, YOU CAN.

TEXAS



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News Briefs

Vision Clinic to check eyes

This semester eye examinations will be available at the TJC Vision Care Clinic located on the TJC West Campus. Dr. John Deaton of DeHaven Eye Clinic and Dr. Brian Frazier of Eye Care Associates of East Texas will perform the exams on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The fee for basic eye exams for eyeglasses is \$45 for students with a valid ID card. Contact lenses exams will include an additional \$35 fee. To schedule an appointment email the clinic at srob@tjc.edu or call 903-510-2020.

UTA to recruit here Feb. 24

Representatives from The University of Arlington will be on campus Feb. 24 from

9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. They will be located in Jenkins Hall between the east stairwells to meet with students.

Screenplay contest to end March 14

The Great American Film Project Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing experience and education to aspiring filmmakers. The Great American Screenplay Competition for 2005 is open to novice writers from across the United States. Deadline for submissions is March 14.

The winning screenwriter will be awarded \$2,000 cash, a free script evaluation by the renowned Syd Field, plus free screenwriting software by Write Brothers. The first runner-up will receive \$500 cash and second runner-up \$250 cash.

For more information about the competition go to www.TGAFP.com and click on The Great American Screenplay

History group seeks members

Students who want to learn more about Texas and local history are invited to join the Webb Historical Society. History instructors Geoff Willbanks and Dr. Jeffrey Owens sponsor the group which focuses on making learning history enjoyable.

The Webb Society took their first trip Saturday, Feb. 5 to Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans. Membership costs only \$2 with no dues. To join, sign your name, phone number and email address on the bulletin board in the Counselor's Office hallway in Jenkins Hall. Those who have questions can meet Willbanks and Owens in

their offices, Jenkins 119 and 139.

Planetarium sets lectures

Astronomy Instructor Helen Mears will speak Feb. 25 about "Stars: From Beginning to End." at the first Public Astronomy Lecture.

Planetarium Educator Carolyn Walker will speak March 25. Her topic will be "Stories in the Stars: Hebrew and Christian Star Lore."

Tom Hooten, Hudnall Planetarium director, will speak about "Deep Impact: NASA Mission to Comet Temple 1" April 22.

Following the lecture the Astronomical Society of East Texas will host their monthly Star Parties.

Advance tickets may be purchased at the TJC Cashier's Of-

fice. Tickets cost \$2 for students.

Band frat sets game night

Kappa Kappa Psi will host a Halo 2 Game Tournament Friday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Band Hall in the HPE Center. Admission costs \$5 at the door for all-night entertainment. Prizes donated by Tyler businesses will go to the winners.

Checks ready for students

Students who receive financial aid from scholarships or Pell Grants will be able to pick up any remaining balances on their account Feb. 14 at the cashier's office. Loan checks were made available to students on Jan. 27. Students must present their student ID to pick up their check.

Black History Month educates all Americans, few know too little about contributions

By Coshandra Dillard
Staff Writer

February marks the month Americans reflect on Black History. Black history was first recognized annually as "Negro History Week" in 1926, then later as Black History Month. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a son of former slaves, is responsible for the celebration. Woodson began his education when he enrolled in high school when he was 20. He graduated and then earned a

Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln.

Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Woodson was upset to find that early history books ignored the black population except in instances that showed an inferior social position. His study of black history included the contributions of black people

since the founding of this nation. Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln, two men who made an early impact in the lives of black Americans.

Time to commemorate history made by

black Americans is intended for all Americans. Student Services Director Dr. Otis Webster believes Black History Month is a "good echoing vehicle" to recognize the contributions of blacks in this country as well as their impact on the rest of the

world. Webster said lack of knowledge breeds misunderstanding between people from different backgrounds.

In grade school through college, we learn of the same famous figures: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and others. These individuals are important to American history, but we still do not know a lot about the lives of black Ameri-

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Apaches lose, 66-77, to Jacksonville Jaguars

By Hassan Dean
Staff Writer

The Apaches went up against the Jacksonville Jaguars and lost 66-77. Jacksonville dominated the first half of the game, in both offense and defense.

TJC showed weakness in lack of cooperation. It didn't help that they lost control

of the ball while dribbling on more than one occasion.

Jacksonville played aggressively and continued to attack the TJC defense. Their weak defense gave away too many free shots by fouling the offense.

By the end of the first half, TJC had 34 points, and Jackson-

ville trailed close behind with 25.

'The Heart-throbs' took the court for the half-time show. Made up of about a dozen children, from ages eight to 12, the Heart-throbs put on an acrobatic act involving jump ropes. They tried hard and did well.

The second half was

delayed by a scoreboard malfunction. TJC played better in second half, but were unable to take control of the game. The scores were close all through the half, because of TJC free shots awarded.

Jacksonville took over in the closing minutes and showed

no mercy. They blocked TJC's offense and tore through the defense. Two slam dunks in the last minute, won the game. Jacksonville 66, TJC, 57.

This game must have left a bitter taste in the mouths of the Apache players.

Critchlow takes over as Apache football coach

By Ric Worsham
Staff Writer

TJC made some changes over the winter break. Along with some construction on campus, they reconstructed the football coaching staff.

Jamie M. Critchlow was named Apache head football coach Jan 6. Critchlow fills the vacancy left when former Head Coach Dale Carr, who after nine seasons here announced that he had accepted the head coaching position at Angelo State Univer-

sity.

Critchlow, TJC offensive line assistant from 1998-2003, is a former TJC student who transferred from Southwest Missouri State University in 1993. After receiving his associate's degree from TJC, Critchlow attended Oregon State University where he graduated in 1997.

Critchlow said his "dad was from Texas and researched about some schools. I decided that TJC was the right place for me." Critchlow played for the

Apaches in 1993 and 1994, before transferring to OSU, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1997.

He headed str-aight back to TJC to become the assistant offensive line coach. After six seasons with the Apaches, Critchlow moved to Texas A&M Commerce, where he was Assistant Offensive Line Coach and coached the running backs.

He returned to TJC, Critchlow said, because "I have so much history here, along

with family ties and plus I love the atmosphere."

Critchlow has added some new assistant coaches. Tom Casey will be defensive coordinator, Zac Bryant, defensive line coach, Ryan Mahon will coach running backs, and Jeff Tunnell, formerly the assistant athletic director for TJC will head up the wide receivers and quarterbacks.

"Our biggest accomplishment for this next season is to succeed in the class-

room," Critchlow said. "We are going to push academics very hard, because when you win in the classroom, you will win on the field."

With the Feb. 2 signing day for new recruits, Critchlow said, "We have some new prospects coming up, not only state wide, but from Arkansas and Louisiana as well."

He looks forward to a solid fall 2005 season, winning in the classroom and on the field.

Superbowl win makes Patriots football dynasty

By Bradley Brown
Staff Writer

The Super Bowl XXXIX game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots tested fans' loyalty. They witnessed four intense, hard-hitting, high octane quarters in a football game to remember.

Days before the game, in a survey of

TJC students, 57 percent picked the Philadelphia Eagles to win. The New England Patriots running game was favored to control the clock by a whopping 72 percent of those surveyed. "Who had the better offense," 71 percent voted would be the most important game factor. Tom

Brady and Donovan McNabb tied for most valuable players with 36 percent of the votes.

"Who had the hands?"

Freddie Mitchell led the receivers with 36 percent, and Teddy Bruschi dominated with 45 percent of the votes as "defensive player of the game."

Super Bowl XXXIX makes New England Patriots the next dynasty, replacing the Dallas Cowboys of the early 90s.

Patriots' players make big plays in big game situations.

Super Bowl XXXIX MVP Deion Branch caught a record 11 catches for 133 yards

and defensive back Rodney Harrison, with exciting defensive plays, led the Patriots to their third Super Bowl in four years.

When the Patriots report to training camp next year, two assistant coaches may be absent, leaving fans to wonder if this will end the Patriots dynasty.

Black History Month

Continued from page 6

cans beyond the era of slavery and civil rights. All the ideas, accomplishments, attitudes and hardships of blacks before, during and after slavery are usually grouped into one lump.

Since the founding of America, black Americans have shaped the nation through science, agriculture, education, medicine, law and politics. Woodson understood this when he began his mission to educate all Americans on the significance of black history.

More schools and media outlets now understand and convey the importance of Black History Month through special efforts. Many question, "Why are we still dedicating an entire month to recognize a group of people?"

The answer is simple: until a full account of black history is included in all school history books and curricula, Black History Month is needed. It is easy to take for granted that our country was founded by diverse cultures and each group played an important part in molding the country. What is so incredible about the legacy of black Americans is that they overcame horrific circumstances while literally dedicating blood, sweat and tears so their descendants could live better lives.

Do we all know and appreciate that blacks have fought in every major war since

the American Revolution, even though they were not free themselves? Or that the U.S. Constitution speaks of all persons being equal, yet blacks were not for centuries afterward? Do we think about what black Americans' self-confidence level could have been when our government did not even count them as a whole person in the census? These important truths combine with achievement and triumphs that make black history unique.

All races living in America have donated something special to the "melting pot." All cultures should be celebrated so that Americans can relate to each other better.

Activities

◦ The Smith County Historical Society on College Street in downtown Tyler will exhibit Black History Month through February. Photos include early black settlers of East Texas and the first black educators, doctors and entrepreneurs are displayed 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

◦ Student Services will present a Black History Program Feb. 24. Any student interested in participating should contact Student Services at 903-510-2261.

◦ Student Services will also run a film series in Rogers Student Center lobby through February. Films will begin each

day at 10 a.m.

◦ KLTV.com has a special link dedicated to Black History Month. It contains history facts and a quiz.

Black History Facts

◦ Crispus Attucks (1723?-1770) became the first casualty of the American Revolution in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

◦ On July 10, 1893, the first successful open heart surgery was performed by a

black man, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (1856-1931).

◦ Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), mathematician and surveyor was appointed by President George Washington to the District of Columbia Commission, whose work established the city's original boundaries.

◦ Madame C.J. Walker (1867-1919), dubbed twentieth century's most successful self-made female entrepreneur was the daughter of former slaves. Walker created hair products and styling techniques for black women. Go to madamcjwalker.com for her incredible story.

Look for the next edition
of the TJC News
Next Week!

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